

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed comments in the Office Action mailed July 17, 2009. The wording in Fig. 1 has been corrected to clearly show the words "overhead compartment".

Fig. 2 shows a "sandwich design", as referred to in the specification at paragraph [0019], for example, including an arrangement of an exterior skin 2 of an aircraft fuselage being joined with a plate-like planking 5. The specification discloses various materials which may be used for burn-through resistant exterior skin and planking on pages 5-9 of the specification. Paragraph [0021] introduces the heat proof composite material of carbon fibers, coated with a nitride or boride, such as silicon carbide, silicon nitride or boron nitrates embedded in a metal or ceramic material. Paragraph [0018] discloses a hybrid material. Paragraph [0019] discloses that a resin layer is used to coat or embed the hybrid material to produce a sandwich design bonded with a composite material and the metal material in layers (films). In addition, a GLARE material may be included. Various composite materials are listed in paragraph [0020] and [0025], for example.

The specification has been amended to correct the reference characters and hereby contains consistent terminology. An amended abstract is provided in this amendment. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments.

Claims 17, 19, 21-23, 26-27 and 29-30 are amended. The amendments to claims 9 and 12 overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, by clearly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 18 and 24-25 are canceled. Limitations of claims 18 and 24-25 are incorporated into amended claim 17. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in claims 18 and 24-25, the drawings and the specification, at paragraphs [0008], [0010], [0018]-[0021] and [0025]-[0028], for example.

The amendment to claim 17 puts all of the claims in condition for allowance, because none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 17, as now amended. Specifically, the cited references do not disclose the feature of a fuselage with an

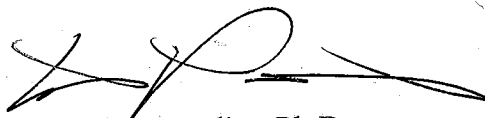
exterior skin of a hybrid material comprising a heat proof composite material of carbon fibers coated with a nitride or carbide bond which is embedded in a metal or ceramic material. While Westre et al. (U.S. Patent 6,114,050) shows a well known composite made of laminated lay up of layers (plies), Westre et al. fails to disclose all of the limitations of claim 17, as amended.

Therefore, claim 17 is nonobvious over the cited references, taken alone or in combination. The aircraft fuselage has the surprising and unexpected advantage of being deformable during further processing, while also providing burn-through resistance during a fire without unacceptable loss of strength and structural integrity and without adding weight to the structure. None of the cited references taken alone or in combination provide any teaching or suggestion of the limitations of claim 17 as amended.

Claims 17, 19, 21-23 and 26-32 are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

Date: November 17, 2009

Respectfully submitted,



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